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done. Thus, what he relied on was really little more than family or local tradition. All these compilers quote one another without giving any credit for their quotations; so that the mere fact that they all tell a certain story does not make the story true. It is now quite impossible to say exactly which of their stories are true and which are false. Some of the more striking incidents, however, were undoubtedly preserved by tradition in the shape in which they occurred. Other incidents were so altered as to be unrecognizable by any seeker after truth. Yet others were recorded accurately enough as to the essential facts; but with much confusion of names and dates. A good illustration of the latter class is afforded by that account of one of the sieges of Wheeling, reported in all the border annal books, which tells how the garrison got out of powder, and how a girl brought in a supply, under circumstances of considerable heroism. All the traditions agree about this; but the conflicting claims as to who the girl was are absolutely irreconcilable.

Rather curiously these border annalists are more trustworthy when they deal with small events than when they deal with the larger facts of Western history. They know the traditions of their neighborhood well; but in more important matters tradition proves a poor guide. Withers, for instance, can often be trusted as to the circumstances attending the attack on some particular log hut, or the feats of prowess, on some one occasion, of a given backwoodsman. But his account of St. Clair's defeat is valueless, and is followed by what is probably the wildest fabrication to be found in any book of border annals. He states that an expedition of the mounted volunteers of Kentucky avenged St. Clair's defeat by attacking the victorious Indians as they were camped on the scene of the battle, killing two hundred, putting to flight the rest, and recapturing the cannon. No such expedition took place, no such fight was fought, not an Indian was killed, and not a gun captured, as described.

However, in spite of some looseness in matters of fact, the book has great value, and must be consulted by every student of early Western history. Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites is an ideal editor for such a work; a trained student and scholar, — the two words are not synonymous, — he is one of that band of Western historians, who, during the last decade, have opened an entirely new field of historical study. The editorial work of this edition of the *Chronicles* is excellent throughout.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

A History of the People of the United States, from the Revolution to the Civil War. By JOHN BACH McMASTER, University of Pennsylvania. In six volumes. Vol. IV. (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1895. Pp. xiv, 630.)

IN this portly volume, Mr. McMaster traverses the nine years extending from the summer of 1812 to the spring of 1821. This scarcely brings the author to the middle mark of his chosen course. If the forty

years prior to 1820 deserve four volumes of Mr. McMaster's study, surely the forty years between 1820 and 1860 deserve more than two. Moreover, if Mr. McMaster so wishes, he may make these latter decades peculiarly his own. In this period his predecessors are few. He has now passed beyond the range of the admirable work of Henry Adams. He has reached the boundary where Hildreth stopped. Beyond his present limit there is no continuous road across the ridges of time save the somewhat rugged path of Schouler and von Holst's aerial route.

Yet there is no period richer in unwrought materials for social history — for a *History of the People* — than these decades between the construction of the Erie Canal, and the struggle over slavery in the territories. Rivulets of Western migration broadened into rivers and bore the fleets of a new commerce. Society was filled with the ferment of new faiths. From Mormonism at one end of the period to Fourierism at the other, there was a constant procession of new Messiahs with new gospels. Industrial development was rapid, and it was revolutionized by the invention of the railway engine and the telegraph. Here, also, the historian must deal with personal forces of unexampled strength and influence, the grandeur of Webster, the high-spirited fervor of Clay, the subtlety of Calhoun, the democracy of Jackson.

Thus far in his work Mr. McMaster has made but little adequate use of the power of personality in shaping history. The fourth volume shows no change in this respect. The reader receives no sufficient explanation of the dominant position of De Witt Clinton in New York politics in 1812, or of his utter ruin shortly after. Madison, Monroe, Adams, Clay, Calhoun, Crawford, appear only as names. They give no impression of life. They are only fixed points, by which march in review whole regiments of facts about banks, currency, tariffs, and foreign relations. Every method of narration has its own virtues and defects. Mr. McMaster loses, perhaps, in impressiveness, in the effect which a more dramatic arrangement would produce, but he gains, possibly, in fidelity and clearness of narrative. His touch grows firm with experience, and the colorless impartiality which he desires is well preserved.

All the good qualities of the author are seen at their best in the chattering story of the second war with England, which fills the first half of this volume. There is little room for novelty, but the recital is skilful. The panorama of the war is steadily unrolled and the crowding events are made to teach their own lesson, but so surely and plainly that the way-faring man, though a fool, may not err therein. Never since the days of Cleon was there a more striking exhibition of the incompatibility between democracy and military efficiency than that afforded by our armies on the Canadian frontier. Soldiers who wouldn't fight were well mated with officers who couldn't,—the senile Dearborn, the braggart Smyth, the knavish Wilkinson, and, above them all, the politician Armstrong. So goes the familiar tale of incompetence on land and of heroism on sea. From the extreme of exasperation the reader is carried to the extreme of

exultation, as he cons once again the exploits of those spiritual kinsmen of Francis Drake and Richard Grenville who swept the Pacific coast with David Porter and struggled under Reid with an overwhelming force of the enemy in the harbor of Fayal.

In treating of the work of the Home Guards during the war, Mr. McMaster is able to draw from newspaper files some interesting items. The rigid blockade during the latter part of the war drove the coasting trade inland, where it was sheltered on wagon-board, and its progress was chronicled in the Federalist press under the caption: "Horse Marine Intelligence." Thus: "Port of Salem. Arrived, the three-horse ship, *Dreadnaught*, Captain David Allen, sixteen days from New York. Spoke in the latitude of Weathersfield, the *Crispin*, Friend Alley master, from New York, bound homeward to Lynn, but detained and waiting trial for breach of the Sabbath." The brightest coruscation of Federalist wit was a parody on Campbell's "Ye Mariners of England," which ran thus:

"Ye wagoners of Freedom, Whose chargers chew the cud,
Whose wheels have braved a dozen years The gravel and the mud!
Your glorious hawbucks yoke again To take another jag,
And scud through the mud, Where the heavy wheels do drag;
Where the wagon creak is long and low, And the jaded oxen lag.
Columbia needs no wooden walls, No ships where billows swell,
Her march is like a terrapin's, Her home is in her shell."

Mr. McMaster passes very abruptly from the war to the piping times of peace that followed. He does not bestow much philosophical generalization upon the chapter of political and international complications that had lasted through a quarter-century. The smoke of the guns of the frigate *Constitution* curls over page 279, and on page 280 he rushes forward towards local politics in the spirit of this introductory passage: "From the long story of battles and sieges and civil strife it is delightful to be able to turn once more to the narration of the triumphs of peace. At last, after a period of five and twenty years, the people of the United States were free to attend to their own concerns in their own way, unmolested by foreign nations." It is difficult to bid such a curt farewell to the great movement of the French Revolution. Its life was not so foreign to our own, nor was our participation in it so mechanical in nature. The Republicanism of 1820 should be traced from the Republicanism of 1793; the ultra-democratic notions of the new West had their genesis before 1800. The Tammany Society and the Jacobin Club sprang from similar social influences, the fires of the Revolution were, in 1812, just beginning to kindle in Spanish America, and the dreams of Burr were not forgotten here. It would be well to emphasize the continuity of these strands of historical influence.

The latter half of the volume is filled with the various affairs of Monroe's first administration,—the tariff of 1816, Jackson's flaming career in Florida and the disputes with Spain, the conditions of banking and the currency, internal improvements, the northeastern fisheries, temperance

and prison reforms, missionary and colonization agitations, and the Maine-Missouri controversy.

In some instances Mr. McMaster has been able to make his topic clearer by a new setting. He has taken a natural interest in demonstrating the causes of New York's commercial success over its rivals on the Delaware and Chesapeake. It is clear that the supremacy of the northern city was won soon after the close of the war, and was not due to the completion of the Erie Canal. It was the reward of the spirit that afterwards made the canal. In 1818, already had the more sluggish mercantile community of Philadelphia lost the prize that might have fallen to it. Western traders were obliged to pay in advance the freight dues from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. New York dealers collected freight dues when the goods were delivered, and charged one dollar and a half less per hundredweight than their Quaker brethren. Philadelphia merchants would not guarantee against damage to goods on the way. New York shippers took the risk of damages incurred before the delivery of the goods.

Some of the most interesting pages in the book are those that deal with the origins and expansion of public charitable and missionary organizations. Reports of the pioneer home missionaries of the West and South are used in an interesting way. Incidentally the wonderful prosperity of the Methodist Church in this country is luminously explained.

"Wherever they went they found great tracts of country inhabited by from twenty to fifty thousand people, in which there was not a preacher of any sect. Where there were any they were almost invariably Methodists. The discipline of the Methodists was especially well suited to the state of the West. Population was scattered. The people were poor, and not at all inclined to form societies and incur the expenses of maintaining a settled minister. A sect, therefore, which marked out the region into circuits, put a rider on each and bade him cover it once a month, preaching here to-day and there to-morrow, but returning at regular intervals to each community, provided the largest amount of religious teaching and preaching at the least expense. This was precisely what the Methodists did, and this was precisely what the people desired."

The map, opposite page 50, illustrating the Canadian campaigns, is inadequate, and the map on page 165, showing the scene of the Creek war, is not uniform with the surrounding text in its spelling of Indian names.

CHARLES H. LEVERMORE.

The Life of Samuel J. Tilden. By JOHN BIGELOW, LL.D. (New York: Harper and Brothers. 1895. Two vols., pp. vii, 415, v, 412.)

EVERY student of politics or political history, every one who believes that political ideals and institutions practically and enormously affect the welfare of men, will find these volumes interesting — very interesting. To this praise,—the first and usually the chief praise craved by an author,—